

NYS Comptroller's Audit Results Show the Town has "Good Controls" of Process for Monitoring Asphalt Road Surfacing Projects

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Farmingville, NY - Farmingville, NY - In a letter to Supervisor Ed Romaine dated April 5, 2013 summarizing the results of a New York State audit monitoring Town Asphalt Road Projects, New York State Deputy Comptroller Steven J. Hancox states that the Town of Brookhaven has "good controls and monitoring over asphalt road-surfacing projects and the payment of prevailing wages." The Comptroller's audit monitored ten New York towns, including five from Long Island; Brookhaven, East Hampton, Islip, Shelter Island and Southold. Of all the towns, Brookhaven had the largest Highway Department budget (\$71 million), most tons of asphalt applied (106,305 tons) and total projects asphalt cost (\$7,554,657).

"I am pleased to receive such a positive report from the Comptroller's office," said Supervisor Romaine, "The oversight by our Highway Department on asphalt projects bodes well for the residents who are assured that the work they are paying for is of the highest quality and completed in the most cost-efficient manner."

The audit positively noted that Town Highway Department officials properly monitored asphalt road surfacing projects by on-site presence, visits to the asphalt vendor and by comparing the billed invoices to awarded bid prices and the tonnage purchased per delivery tickets. Town officials also review the contractors certified payrolls and the Highway Deputy Superintendent signs an approval for payment. The auditor's tests that compared the tonnage per the asphalt delivery tickets to bid prices and invoices disclosed no discrepancies. They also verified that the employees paid by job classification were paid consistent with the applicable prevailing wage rates.

The Comptroller's audit also indicated that the Highway Department's monitoring procedures included obtaining the job mix formula and daily batch reports, receiving periodic asphalt analysis reports from the contractor, having on-site presence and visiting the vendor. The audit showed that a periodic asphalt analysis by the Town concluded that 15 of 61 asphalt samples that were tested failed to meet specifications and the vendors addressed the issues to the Town's satisfaction and at no additional cost. Brookhaven Town was one of only two towns that obtained the job mix formula and daily batch reports, and it was noted in the audit that the Town "demonstrated sound fiscal stewardship" by also including core sampling "to protect the interests of the taxpayer."